



*Painted by Hamzah Carr.*

**SARAH ANN BROWN** affords a remarkable example of a woman's work in industry and in the home. Born at Widnes, Lancashire, she married at the age of seventeen. When her husband joined the Army in 1915, she joined the chemical industry. Her job was to unload the coal and limestone needed for the manufacture of sodium carbonate ("washing soda"), hydrochloric acid and other heavy chemicals. This was man's work, usually considered far too heavy for a woman, yet Mrs.

Brown not only did it until 1919 without damage to her health, but brought up four children. In 1919 she left to nurse her husband who had been invalided out of the service. Between the wars she brought up four more children, but in 1941 returned to the chemical industry and to the same kind of job she had done a quarter of a century before! It is to unload coal from railway wagons into an elevator which supplies the mechanical stokers on the boiler plant. This plant makes the steam necessary for heating and distillation and is a vital link in the manufacture of essential heavy chemicals. The supply of steam must be continuous and so, therefore, must the supply of coal. Of Mrs. Brown's seven surviving children two sons have served in the Forces and one daughter in a munitions works. None of her six grand-children is yet old enough to serve.



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